

Application No. 10/029,350
Docket No. 13DV-14197
Amendment dated July 5, 2004
Reply to Office Action of April 8, 2004

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner reviewed remaining claims 1, 2, 4-14, and 16-20 of the above-identified US Patent Application, with the result that claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-14, 16, 17, 19 and 20 were rejected and claims 7 and 18 were deemed to recite allowable subject matter. Specifically, the Examiner cited the allowable subject matter of claims 7 and 18 as being an acid solution "capable of removing a platinum aluminide coating." In response, Applicants have amended the claims as set forth above. More particularly:

Independent claims 1 and 13 have been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of their respective dependent claims 7 and 18, namely, the diffusion aluminide coating is a platinum-containing diffusion aluminide coating.

Because the Examiner did not attribute any patentable weight to the limitation introduced by Applicants' amendment filed January 8, 2004, requiring that the aqueous solution consists of about 50 volume percent nitric acid and about 50 volume percent phosphoric acid, claim 1 has been amended to revert to the "consisting essentially of" clause with which it was originally filed.

Finally, claims 7 and 18 have been canceled in view of their limitations being incorporated into their parent claims 1 and 13.

Applicants believe that the above amendments do not present new matter, and that the above amendments place independent claims 1 and 13 and their remaining

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dependent claims 2, 4-6, 8-12, 14, 16, 17, 19 and 20 in condition for allowance.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the claim rejections, and that their patent application be given favorable reconsideration.

Should the Examiner have any questions with respect to any matter now of record, Applicants' representative may be reached at (219) 462-4999.

Respectfully submitted,

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